



CHRIST CHURCH
— PRESBYTERIAN —

ORDER *of* WORSHIP

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

WELCOME *to* CHRIST CHURCH

Thanks for joining us for worship this morning! We gather each week because we believe Jesus Christ is the one true hope for our tired and broken world. So, wherever your walk is with God, we are glad you are here to be part of our celebration of God's generosity to us in Jesus.

Christ Church is an inter-generational congregation rooted in our common faith in Christ and commitment to serving His kingdom. These commitments propel us into the future as we continue our congregation's thirty-year tradition of joyful and reverent worship, dedication to spiritual growth, and passion for advancing the Gospel in Jacksonville and around the world.

If you have any questions about Christ Church, please don't hesitate to ask an usher, a friendly face with a name tag in the lobby, or seek out one of our pastors.

GUIDELINES *for* WORSHIP

With the spread of disease around our country, it is important for us, as a church, to be responsive to the circumstances. While we have aggressively implemented social distancing protocols and cleaning regimens, we cannot guarantee a non-compromised environment. All common areas of the church building must be used at one's own risk. Please follow these guidelines:

- In keeping with our mayor's order, face masks are required of all attendees over six years of age. If you do not have a mask, or perhaps forget to bring one, we have face coverings available in the Narthex.
- Please allow for six feet of distance between you and others not in your immediate family unit. Additionally, please refrain from physical greetings and congregating in the aisles and Narthex.
- We will not pass offering plates to collect our tithes and offerings. Rather, after the service, gifts can be deposited in the box labeled *Tithes & Offerings* located just outside the sanctuary doors in the Narthex. Also, financial gifts can always be submitted online through the website.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

January 9 (9a-1p)	Seamark Ranch Workday
January 10 (9.30a)	Congregational Meeting
January 10 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 12 (6.30p)	Session Meeting
January 17 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 24 (10.30a)	Worship Service
January 31 (10.30a)	Communion Service

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JANUARY 10

Join us for a Congregational Meeting next Sunday, January 10th, at 9.30a in the Sanctuary for the election of new ruling elders. During this time we will also present the 2021 budget, share our ministry plan, and discuss the new Capital Fund that the Session has established to address the portion of our building project that we financed. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

2021 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS

Thank you for your generosity in 2020! As we begin a new year, we have the opportunity to evaluate our financial priorities in view of the commands and promises of our generous Lord, Jesus Christ. Therefore, we invite our entire congregation to engage this spiritual exercise and join us in offering a sacrifice of thanks to God with our pledges. 2021 pledge cards are inserted into your bulletin and will be collected during the congregational meeting & service next week.

AN EASIER WAY TO GIVE

Giving tithes & offerings just got easier at Christ Church. We've moved to a new online platform called PushPay. This new secure giving option will allow for both online giving and text giving. See christchurchpresjax.org/giving for details. Or to give by smart phone, text CCJACKSONVILLE to 779777.

SEAMARK RANCH WORKDAY, JANUARY 9

Join us on Saturday, January 9, 9a-1p, for a workday at our local ministry partner, Seamark Ranch. Anyone interested in seeing Seamark up close and contributing a few hours of labor to that community is welcome! This is a great service opportunity for families, too. If interested, please contact Chris White, or the volunteer coordinator, Terri Cooper at volunteer@seamarkranch.com.

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————— ENTER *the* PRESENCE *of* GOD —————

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Lawler

Please take a moment to prepare your heart for worship, and silence all mobile devices.

⊕ CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him!

The LORD has made known his salvation!

He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations! He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel!

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God!

INVOCATION

HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

Words: Dix | Music: Kocher

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright ;
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that cradle rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Prior to the corporate prayer, we take a moment to confess our sins in silence.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

⊕ HYMN

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Music: English Melody

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

Chorus

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you afright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might.”

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Words: Wesley | Music: Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Chorus

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

And, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church*, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The "holy catholic Church" refers to the entire company of God's redeemed people throughout the world and across the centuries.*

HEAR *the* WORD of GOD

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 25

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD,

pardon my guilt, for it is great.

¹² Who is the man who fears the LORD?

Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

- ¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- ¹⁴ The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.
- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- ¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
- ¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
- ²⁰ Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
- ²² Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.

After the Psalm, we respond:

All men are like grass and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,

but the word of our God stands forever!

EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 2.11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Waiting and Seeking
Alec Cotton

RESPOND *to* GOD

⊕ HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

Words: Chadwick | Music: Barnes

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

After our congregational supplications, we say the prayer our Savior has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Tithes & Offerings may be deposited after the service in the offering box outside the sanctuary doors. Alternately, gifts can be made online at www.christchurchpresjax.org or mailed to the church office.

OFFERTORY

Good and Upright (Psalm 25)

Words: Colson & Zipf | Music: Zipf

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust;
Make me to know your ways, and teach me your paths.*

*For the sake of your name, Lord, pardon my guilt for it is great.
Consider my affliction and forgive all my sin.*

*O Lord, remember your mercy
And your steadfast love,
For they are from of old.
Good and upright are you, Lord!
Good and upright are you, Lord!*

*Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God
Of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*

*Lord, turn to me and be gracious, you know the troubles of my heart.
Oh, guard my soul, Lord, and deliver us!*

⊕ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son;
And praise the Spirit three in one!
O Praise him, O Praise him;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

DEPART *in* PEACE

HYMN

Go, Tell it on the Mountain
Words & Music: Work

Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled
When high above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

And lo, when they had heard it,
They all bowed down and prayed;
They traveled on together
To where the babe was laid.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

BENEDICTION

ITEMS *for* PRAYER

HEALTH CONCERNS: Barb Day (Cancer); Gar Gurganious (Cancer); Hector (Dementia) & V'Elna Harima; Rebecca Lee (Back); Wayne Noble

STAFF *of* CHRIST CHURCH

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ELDERS *of* CHRIST CHURCH

Carl Ashauer | Steve Beaver | Roger Bosma | Jim Dickenson | Jon Groh | Dave Lowe

David Ristau | Cannon Simpson



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